

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25, 2005 MEETING OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

Location: Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway,
Fairfax, Virginia, Conference Room 9

Attending: **SBC Members**
Samuel Phipps, Chairman, Lee District
Harold Pyon, Vice-Chairman, Braddock District
Joyce Bissonnette, Mason District
Thomas Kim, At-Large
Marvin Powell, Sully District
Katy Fike, Mount Vernon District
Niquelle Cotton, Hunter Mill District
Mark Roeber, Springfield District

Staff (Department of Purchasing and Supply Management)

Cathy Muse, Director, DPSM
Marvis Marshall, Office of Small Business, Director

Absent: Marjorie Caastro, Providence District
Thomas Jacobi, Dranesville District
Robert Secundy, At-Large
Omar Kader, At-Large

Samuel Phipps called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm

Guest Speaker

Angela Martin, Manager of the Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) unit of Metro (www.metroopensdoors.com – 202-962-2464), Office of Procurement & Materials detailed current programs, guidelines and certifications for DBE and small business suppliers.

Young Ho Chang will speak to transportation and land use issues at the May 23, 2005 meeting. Commission members will poll small business in their districts to determine what transportation issues are of greatest concern.

Minutes from the March 28, 2005 meeting were approved as submitted.

Marvis presented motion, Harold seconded. Motion carried. Minutes were accepted as written.

Staff Reports

Cathy distributed excerpts of pertinent legislation both passed and failed. The Legislative Committee should present 2005 legislative agenda items ASAP.

Expectations for the VAGP Conference are high. Almost 200 registrations and the vendor exhibits are fully booked. Commissioners have committed to the times they will attend.

Annual Report

The Annual report was presented by Samuel Phipps, Harold Pyon and Joyce Bissonette. Cathy will provide Supervisor Hudgins with Small and Minority Business government contracting participation percentages in an effort to decide if a Diversity Study for Fairfax County is necessary. Though Fairfax County is far ahead of Richmond in apportioning business to all sectors, a study would provide concrete facts on which to base future purchasing decisions and possible remediation, (i.e. Currently, DPSM can suggest that departments search the eVA database for small contractors for ordering supplies.) If a Diversity Study shows an imbalance, the suggestion could become a directive.

Education & Outreach

Thomas Kim presented the committee report. They are developing a matrix of topics and will present a topic and venue for an Outreach Event at the next meeting. Marvin suggested that the event be held one hour before our regular meeting at the Government Center.

The email issue on it's way to a resolution so that the Reply button will send the message to the individual inquiring.

Thomas wanted to let Joyce Bissonette know that he had valued the time spent with her on the Commission and wished her the best in her new endeavors.

Legislative Committee

Mark will keep us current on the following:

HR 22 - Small Business Bill of Rights

Legislation to close the tax gap between advantages to large and small businesses.

Ways to reduce regulatory burden on manufacturers which will also impact small business.

HR 1678 – Addressing reporting regulations.

HR 1661 – Addressing band with disparity for smaller telecommunications companies.

Finance Committee

Sam will email the Mission Statement to the Commissioners.

Community Business Partnership

Sam attended his first meeting as a Board Member. The new Education Center for Women Entrepreneurs funded by Mass Mutual is open. There were 10 new loans funded first quarter 2005.

Mount Vernon Lee Chamber

The Annual SFDC/MVLCC Dinner was held with Gerry Hyland and Dana Kaufman fielding questions from the audience. Gerry and Dana pointed up the vast changes to Richmond Highway which have come about in the last ten years. Becky Witsman (formerly of SFDC, now with Falls Church City) and Stephanie Landrum (formerly with SFDC and now with Alexandria Economic Development) were honored for their contributions. The next event is the Business Awards Dinner April 28 at the Mount Vernon Country Club.

Annandale

Harold reported that there will be a breakfast meeting April 25 and the Annual Banquet at the Fairview Park Marriott on May 26.

Vice-Chair Report

Harold will forward invitations which come in via email to each commissioner. The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce invites board members to participate in their activities.

Old Business

Sam distributed a list of Potential Award Categories for the first annual SBC Awards event. It was decided that five categories would be selected with an award certificate going to one business in each District. Katy suggested that Criteria for determining awards would include number of years in business, is this business active in the community, has it made use of resources available to small business in Fairfax County. It would be nice to see some new players included.

Financing and venue for the event must be decided by next meeting. Sam will contact the Workforce Investment Board and Fairfax EDA, along with local businesses to solicit sponsorship. He will contact Omar to determine where he is in the venue/event process.

New Business

Sam has spoken with Rodney Lusk to see if Commission members could be included in the next Leadership Fairfax. Rodney will speak to Commission in June.

Niquelle is moving to DC and May will be her last meeting with the Commission.

The Business Development Assistance Group will hold a conference on May 26th. Joyce made a motion that we participate as an individual sponsor for \$500 and receive a business card size ad in the program. Niquelle seconded. The motion passed.

Katy moved to adjourn. Mark seconded. Motion carried.